

## **PFA Meeting – May 11, 2012**

### **Welcome**

- Maggie Pople, President, welcomed everyone and started meeting at 9:15 am

### **Guest Speakers**

#### **MES Bully Prevention Presentation by the 4<sup>th</sup> / 5<sup>th</sup> graders led by Denise Zallow**

- Students from each classroom in 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade worked this year on the Bully Prevention Program designed to educate students about bullying and to put a stop to bullying by all working together.
- The Power Point presentation will be available to view on the MES Website – go to “Especially for Parents...” then to the Olweus Bully Prevention Program link. Olweus (1991) describes bullying as repeated exposure over time to negative actions.

#### **Dr. Anna Marie Breaux, PH.D – Presentation on “Cooperation, not Competition”**

- Dr. Breaux addressed bullying issues within our schools by walking through a presentation called "Cooperation, not Competition".
- Dr. Breaux has been a clinical psychologist for the past 25 years. She is an NA parent as well. She started the Anti-Bullying Campaign with Dr. Kainaroi 10-15 years ago at Marshall Middle School. Biggest issues regarding bullying occur in grades 4 through 8 but the program has been expanded in elementary and high school. Statistics show that 15% of 4-8<sup>th</sup> graders are severely distressed by bullying.
- All schools have or are starting Anti-bullying programs now. In competitive schools, bullying starts at the elementary school level.
- Here is a summary of Dr. Breaux’s presentation:
  - The Negative Effects of Excessive Competition result in increased competition, bullying and anxiety
  - Emphasize cooperation (working together for a common goal at home/school/work), not competition (striving against a person for purpose of attaining a goal). Give positive reinforcement to the behavior that you want to continue.
  - Bullies often have inflated self-images, seek power and control, show little remorse, and come in all shapes and sizes. Targets of bullying are usually quiet children who are anxious, weak or who have few friends. Victims display behaviors that are irritating to the bully. Victims are easily aroused emotionally. Bullying usually occurs in unstructured settings like hallways, buses, lunchrooms.
  - Gender Differences – Boys (tend to directly bully either physically or verbally) and Girls (indirectly with social alienation or humiliation)
  - Types of Bullying – physical aggression, social aggression, verbal aggression, intimidation, written aggression, sexual harassment, racial and cultural harassment
  - Effects of Bullying on Victims – academically (diminished performance, school avoidance), behaviorally (anxiety, low self-esteem, depression), and physically (stomachaches, difficulty sleeping, headaches)

- What can parents do?
  - Keep child connected since bullying is isolated
  - Do not model excessive competitiveness
  - Point out when bullying occurs so behaviors are not copied (acknowledge positive interactions)
  - Have frequent conversations and help children verbalize feelings
  - Teach child not be a passive bystander
  - Teach child to have assertive responses – come up with 3 solutions

## **President's Report**

### **Executive Board Vote**

- Executive Board slate presented for next year and approved. Voted on during this meeting were the following candidates:
  - Secretary: Laura Lioy
  - VP Membership: Christine Griffin
  - VP Volunteers: Lisa Cignetti
  - Assistant Treasurer: Kathy Dorman
  - Treasurer: Jennifer Zielinski
  - Co-President: Vanessa Bush
  - President: Maggie Pople

*Jude Cleary approved the new board and Tammy Nash seconded the motion.*

### **2012-2013 Budget Review and Approval**

- Review and Approval of 2012-2013 PFA Budget – Heidi Coltin, Treasurer
  - Detailed review of proposed budget for next year. Budget remained almost the same as this year, only \$85.00 higher. Proposed Budget = \$33,585.00
  - Budget was based on anticipating the same number of students and families as we had this year.
  - Maggie Pople approved the budget and the majority seconded the motion.
  - Any questions regarding the budget can be directed to the Treasurer.

### **EAC Meeting**

- Elementary Advisory Committee (EAC) Meeting Report – Nancy Ceccarelli, EAC Representative
  - NASD Mathematics Program
    - Striving for consistency amongst schools
    - 90% of students in the district are on the M4 track meaning advanced at grade level (students can move between tracks if needed based on performance)
    - Every student at NA graduates with a minimum of Algebra 2 (unique to NASD)
  - NASD Science Program
    - Several electives to choose from in high school
    - Science program is more hands on in elementary school.
 Breakdown as follows:
    - Elementary     $\frac{3}{4}$  process /  $\frac{1}{4}$  vocabulary and book learning
    - Middle          $\frac{1}{2}$  process /  $\frac{1}{2}$  vocabulary and book learning

- High School Majority of learning from vocabulary and book
- Bell schedule to return to normal for next school year.
- Online school being developed to re-coop money that leaves the district to fund students who participate in these programs.

**Administrative Report – Dr. Jim Bradley, Principal**

- Staff Appreciation Week – thanks to everyone who has worked to make this an enjoyable week for the staff with breakfasts, lunches and desserts.

**Meeting Adjourned.**